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# Presidential debate shows candidates are struggling to address climate change concerns

By STEVE PEOPLES  
AP National Political Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The eight Republican presidential candidates on the debate stage were asked to raise their hands if they believed human behavior is causing climate change.

Not a single hand went up.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis shut down the question and attacked the “corporate media.” Echoing the words of former President Donald Trump, Vivek Ramaswamy called climate change “a hoax” and a “wet blanket on our economy.” Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., insisted that more serious environmental threats are coming from China, India and Africa.

Just one Republican, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, said during Wednesday night’s debate in Milwaukee that climate change “is real.”

A day later, frustrated leaders in the GOP’s small but growing movement of environmental activists said their party must do better.



Haze from wildfires in Canada is visible in New York City from the Empire State Building observatory, June 7, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

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# Presidential debate shows candidates are struggling to address climate change concerns

Continued from Front

"We're getting to a point where Republicans are losing winnable elections because they're alienating people that care about climate change," Christopher Barnard, the Republican president of the American Conservation Coalition, the largest conservative environmental group in the nation, said Thursday.

As the 2024 presidential contest begins in earnest, the Republican Party is struggling to reconcile rising concerns about climate change — especially young people — with the GOP's older base, which largely rejects climate science as a liberal conspiracy theory. Scientists overwhelmingly agree that heat-trapping gases released from the combustion of fossil fuels are pushing up global temperatures, upending weather patterns and endangering animal species. Some Republican leaders have acknowledged they cannot ignore climate change altogether. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., has called for planting 1 trillion trees to help protect the environment. But the solutions long promoted by Democrats and



Republican presidential candidates, from left, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Vice President Mike Pence, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, businessman Vivek Ramaswamy, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum stand on stage and listen to a prayer before a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by FOX News Channel, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

environmental advocates — government action to force emissions reductions — remains a nonstarter with the GOP's presidential candidates.

"The climate change agenda is a hoax," Ramaswamy said during the debate, repeating the line for emphasis, even as some younger people in the audience booed. "The reality is more people are dying of climate change policies than they actually are of climate change."

None of Ramaswamy's competitors, eager to attack him on other issues during the two-hour debate,

challenged him directly on climate, even after the debate moderators highlighted new evidence that climate change is causing major problems.

Former Vice President Mike Pence, who was silent on climate change during the debate, suggested on Thursday that it is largely a matter of messaging for the GOP.

"Look the climate is changing, but I believe the issue is what we do about it," Pence told The Associated Press, condemning Democratic-backed policies such as the so-called Green New Deal. "It's all

just about communicating a different vision."

Meanwhile, conditions across the country and the world are creating new urgency for the GOP to take climate change seriously. Heavy rains poured on Cleveland during the debate and Detroit flooded overnight. Wildfires in Canada have led to smoky, polluted air in much of the United States, while a catastrophic wildfire in Hawaii was the deadliest in more than a century. Southern California was hit with a tropical storm for the first time in decades.

But the biggest climate effect has been the heat.

July saw global daily and monthly temperatures hotter than modern equipment had ever recorded. Some scientists said it was the hottest in about 120,000 years, based on tree rings and other proxy records. The world's oceans have set records for heat, both on the surface and deeper, every month since spring. Florida saw 100-degree water and unprecedented coral bleaching.

The presidential debate "underscored the fact that one of the two parties (the GOP) not only refuses to act on the climate crisis, but refuses to even ac-

knowledge it exists," University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann said in an email. "It is a disqualifying position on the defining challenge of our time."

"The party will lose a huge chunk of voters, especially women and younger voters if it adopts this stance," he said.

Most people in the United States (62%) say the federal government is doing too little to reduce climate change, according to a September 2022 poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Even as U.S. adults don't think the government is doing enough, there's a clear division among Republicans.

Half of Republicans under age 45 say the government isn't addressing climate change enough, compared with just 32% of older Republicans.

Younger Republicans also say they feel anxious when discussing climate change at a higher rate than older Republicans. An AP-NORC poll from April found that 17% of young Republicans said anxious describes how they feel when talking about climate change, compared with 7% of older Republicans. □

## U.S. will start training Ukrainian pilots on F-16s at air base in Arizona

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. will start training Ukrainian pilots to fly U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets, beginning at an Air National Guard base in October, the Pentagon said Thursday.

The training is part of a U.S. and European effort to get the advanced fighter jets to Ukraine for its defense against invading Russian forces.

American military officials stress it takes years of training to be able to field F-16 squadrons, limiting the impact the aircraft will have on Ukraine's defense for the near future.

"This is about the long-term

support to Ukraine," the Pentagon spokesman, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, told report-

ers in Washington. "This is not about the counteroffensive that they're con-

ducting right now."

The training will take place at Morris Air National Guard base in Tucson, Arizona. The pilots will first undergo English instruction at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, to bring their fluency up to the level needed to operate the aircraft, starting next month, Ryder said.

Ukraine has long pressed for the American fighter jets to help defend its cities and forces from Russian artillery and aviation.

Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway announced in recent days they would supply the aircraft to Ukraine.

Ryder said the U.S. decided

to join European allies in the training to avoid bottlenecks in bringing Ukrainian pilots up to speed.

The U.S. training would accommodate "several" Ukrainian fighter pilots and dozens of maintenance people for the jets, he said. For experienced pilots, training can range around five months, Ryder said. He sketched out courses covering basics. In addition to flying the advanced craft, they include formation flying, operating weapons, air combat and suppressing air defense systems, on top of centrifuge training on the ground to help pilots withstand the g-forces of an F-16 cockpit. □



A Norwegian air force F-16 fighter lands at a Turkish air base in the Central Anatolian Turkish city of Konya on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2004.

Associated Press



# Scores of Trump fans gather outside Georgia jail to show support ahead of his expected surrender

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and KATE BRUMBACK  
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Hours before former President Donald Trump was expected to turn himself in at the Fulton County Jail on charges related to his efforts to remain in power after his 2020 election loss, dozens of his supporters had already gathered Thursday morning outside the facility. And the crowd grew steadily as the day progressed. It will be the fourth time this year that Trump, the early front-runner in the 2024 Republican presidential primary, is booked on criminal charges. But unlike his previous arrests, which happened in courthouses just before initial appearances before a judge, this time he will be turning himself in at a notoriously troubled jail. Also different from his previous surrenders: authorities are expected to take a booking photo of the former president. Trump and 18 others were indicted last week, accused by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis of participating in a sprawling scheme to undermine



Former President Donald Trump's supporters gather outside of the Fulton County Jail, Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023, in Atlanta.  
Associated Press

the will of Georgia voters who had narrowly rejected the Republican incumbent in favor of Democrat Joe Biden. Many of the others charged turned themselves in at the jail earlier in this week, including Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell and Jenna Ellis on Wednesday and John Eastman on Tuesday. Fulton County Sheriff Pat Labat has said Trump, and the others in this case, will be treated like anyone else — notably saying at a news conference earlier this month: “Unless somebody

tells me differently, we are following our normal practices, and so it doesn't matter your status, we'll have a mugshot ready for you.” But the scene outside the jail was anything but normal Thursday. It included supporters of the former president such as Cliff MacMorris, 66, from Naples, Florida, who held a flag that read, “Trump Won Save America.” He and his wife, Georgine, spent the night in Atlanta. “You don't have the right to persecute somebody unjustly,” Cliff MacMorris

said. His wife said the indictments against the former president were politically motivated because of the four years of “prosperity, safety, freedom” that Trump achieved in the White House. “They must be worried about him for some reason,” she said. Sharon Anderson, 67, from east Tennessee, was outside the jail for a second straight day. She had spent the night in a car with the air conditioning running. “I'm here to support Donald J. Trump. I want him to see some of the millions that show up at the polls for him.” She said the indictments against Trump had only strengthened her support for him. The former president questioned the election results, which isn't a crime, she said. While the crowd was mostly made up of Trump supporters, 64-year-old Laurie Arbeiter, who is from New York City, wore a shirt that said “Arrest Trump” and carried more than 50 black-and-white signs with her, including ones that read “Con-

vict Trump” and “Trump is a Traitor.” She said she'd also traveled to other places where Trump was indicted. As midday temperatures hovered near 90 degrees, sheriff's deputies in vests towed off and sought shade under a tree. The main Fulton County Jail, also known as the Rice Street Jail, is located in a traditionally industrial part of northwest Atlanta where warehouses are currently being redeveloped for retail and residential use. It's set back from the street by a long, tree-lined driveway that leads to a parking lot in front of the jail's imposing façade. On most days, the public and news media are free to drive right up to the front of the jail and news cameras have captured the arrivals and departures of many high-profile people who have been booked into the jail. But with the booking of a former president looming, the driveway off the main street in front of the jail has been closed off for days, with no reporters or cameras allowed within viewing distance of the building. □

# Maui County sues utility, alleging negligence over fires that ravaged Lahaina

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLER and GENE JOHNSON  
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Maui County sued Hawaiian Electric Company on Thursday over the fires that devastated Lahaina, saying the utility negligently failed to shut off power despite exceptionally high winds and dry conditions. Witness accounts and video indicated that sparks from power lines ignited fires as utility poles snapped in the winds, which were driven by a passing hurricane. The Aug. 8 fire killed at least 115 people and left an unknown number of others missing. A spokesperson for Hawai-



A general view shows the aftermath of a devastating wildfire in Lahaina, Hawaii, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023.  
Associated Press

ian Electric didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Had the utility heeded weather service “warnings and de-energized their

powerlines during the predicted high-wind gusts, this destruction could have been avoided,” the lawsuit said. The lawsuit said the util-

ity had a duty “to properly maintain and repair the electric transmission lines, and other equipment including utility poles associated with their transmission of electricity, and to keep vegetation properly trimmed and maintained so as to prevent contact with overhead power lines and other electric equipment.” The utility knew that high winds “would topple power poles, knock down power lines, and ignite vegetation,” the lawsuit said. “Defendants also knew that if their overhead electrical equipment ignited a fire, it would spread at a critically rapid rate.”

The lawsuit notes other utilities, such as Southern California Edison Company, Pacific Gas & Electric, and San Diego Gas & Electric, have all implemented Public Safety Power Shutoffs during high wind events and said the “severe and catastrophic losses ... could have easily been prevented” if Hawaiian Electric had a similar shutoff plan. The county said it is seeking compensation for damage to public property and resources in Lahaina as well as nearby Kula. Other utilities have been found liable for devastating fires recently. □



# Flooding fills tunnels leading to Detroit airport, forces water rescues in Ohio and Las Vegas

By **MIKE HOUSEHOLDER and SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON**  
**Associated Press**

**ROMULUS, Mich. (AP)** — Heavy rain flooded an Ohio highway where people were rescued from their cars, covered the Las Vegas strip with water and temporarily closed a busy airport terminal outside Detroit.

Parts of the western United States have been deluged in recent weeks with rain from Tropical Storm Hilary, and much of the central U.S. was beaten down by deadly sweltering heat. In Hawaii and Washington, emergency crews battled catastrophic wildfires.

Areas in southeast Michigan got over 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) of rain by Thursday morning, resulting in street flooding in the Detroit area, including tunnels leading to Detroit Metropolitan Airport in the suburb of Romulus, officials said. Officials reopened the airport's McNamara Terminal Thursday afternoon.

A few hours earlier Thursday, Mitzi Hale and her



**Cars sit stranded in floodwaters on Sheldon Road south of Ford road in Canton, Mich., Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023.**

three sons ate some snacks out of a vending machine as they awaited word on the status of the terminal. The 42-year-old from Brighton and her sons 10, 13 and 20 were to board a mid-morning flight to Florida. They were scheduled to visit Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom theme

park on Friday before embarking on a Disney cruise through the Caribbean, beginning on Saturday. Making matters worse: The quartet had the same vacation booked for November of last year, but missed out due to a tropical storm that struck the region. "We're just having flash-

backs," said Hale, who lives in Brighton, Michigan, located between Detroit and Lansing. Hale and her boys stood on a pedestrian walkway inside the airport's Evans terminal, which was open on Thursday morning. They looked through a window toward street level at a

**Associated Press**

fleet of shuttle buses that typically take passengers to McNamara.

"I'm trying to be positive, but the boys are a little stressed out," Hale said.

While speaking to a reporter, she received a text from Delta Air Lines informing her that their flight had been pushed back another hour. Asked whether Hale believed she and her family would make it to Florida by the end of the day, she said: "Fingers crossed."

Scientists say that without extensive study they cannot directly link a single weather event to climate change, but that climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme events such as storms, droughts, floods and wildfires. Climate change is largely caused by human activities that emit carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, according to the vast majority of peer-reviewed studies, science organizations and climate scientists. □

# Cape Cod strands more dolphins than anywhere else. Now they're getting their own hospital

By **MARK PRATT**  
**Associated Press**

When members of the marine mammal team from the International Fund for Animal Welfare rush to a Cape Cod beach to help a stranded dolphin or porpoise, they have no choice but to treat the endangered animal on site and then immediately release it. That is about to change.

The organization, which protects animals worldwide, is opening a first-of-its-kind short-term dolphin hospital on Cape Cod this month that it hopes will not only improve survivability rates, but also enhance the research it has developed over 25 years.

Stranded marine mammals are stressed, in shock and dehydrated, said Brian

Sharp, director of the rescue team. Simply caring for them at the scene is often not enough. They need additional diagnostics, treat-

ment and recovery time. "With this ICU for dolphins, we'll be able to get them treatment that's needed, then be able to release

them quickly," he said.

While there are marine mammal rehabilitation centers that can take care of animals for months or even years, the goal of this facility is to release them back into the ocean within four days, he said.

"This is the first time that this has been attempted before," Sharp said.

There are more live marine mammal strandings on Cape Cod than anywhere else in the world, Sharp said.

The welfare fund has responded to more than 400 live stranded dolphins, whales and porpoises in the region in the past five years alone, the organization said in a news release. Cape Cod is a good habitat for dolphins, but a risky

one. Its geography it is basically a hook-shaped spit of sand jutting into the ocean can make dolphin navigation difficult, and 12-foot tides can quickly expose a mile of beach.

The 4,200-square-foot (390-square-meter) Dolphin Rescue Center is in a renovated retail space in downtown Orleans.

It includes an 1,800-square-foot (167-square-meter) rehabilitation area with two treatment pools 15 feet (4.3 meters) across and a veterinary laboratory.

The public will not be permitted to have direct contact with the animals being a cared for, but there is also an education center where visitors will be able to watch the recovering animals on a monitor. □



**An International Fund for Animal Welfare team carries a stranded common dolphin to a waiting vehicle while another waits to be rescued at Herring River, Jan. 19, 2012, in Wellfleet, Mass.**

**Associated Press**



# Iran and Saudi Arabia are among 6 nations set to join the BRICS economic bloc

By GERALD IMRAY, MOGOMOTSI MAGOME and JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Iran and Saudi Arabia were among six countries invited Thursday to join the BRICS bloc of developing economies in a move that showed signs of strengthening a China-Russia coalition as tensions with the West spiral higher.

The United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Egypt and Ethiopia were also set to enter BRICS from Jan. 1, 2024, joining current members Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to make an 11-nation bloc.

The announcement came after two days of talks at a summit in Johannesburg involving Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Russian President Vladimir Putin participated in the discussions virtually after his travel to the summit was complicated by an International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued against him over the war in Ukraine.

Putin welcomed the six countries by video link. He did not mention Wednesday's plane crash that left Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin and some of his top lieutenants presumed dead.

While there has been momentum for a BRICS expansion for months - pushed largely by China and Russia - the five leaders were locked in closed-door discussions for two days Tuesday and Wednesday before emerging with an agreement on expanding and a list of countries on the last day of the summit. BRICS is a consensus-based organization that needs all members to agree on decisions.

The bloc was formed by Brazil, Russia, India and China in 2009 and added South Africa in 2010, mak-



From left, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, China's President Xi Jinping, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pose for a BRICS group photo during the 2023 BRICS Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

ing Thursday's announcement in the heart of Johannesburg's high-rise Sandton financial district its most significant decision in more than a decade.

Mohammad Jamshidi, the political deputy of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi, called joining BRICS a "strategic victory for Iran's foreign policy."

"Felicitations to the Supreme Leader of Islamic Revolution and great nation of Iran," Jamshidi wrote on X, the website formerly known as Twitter.

Raisi attended the summit, as did Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, who said the oil-rich kingdom could be a leader of the bloc given its resources, wealth and access to the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. However, in a twist, Saudi Arabia's membership appeared uncertain after Prince Faisal told the Saudi-owned broadcaster Al Arabiya later Thursday that the kingdom appreciated the invitation but would first study the details before the proposed Jan. 1 joining date and take "the appropriate decision."

BRICS currently represents around 40% of the world's

population and more than a quarter of the world's GDP, with that set to increase. The potential new members include three of the world's biggest oil producers: Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran.

"This membership expansion is historic," Chinese leader Xi said. "It shows the determination of BRICS countries for unity and development."

"Over the years, China has stood in solidarity with developing countries through thick and thin."

Saudi Arabia and the UAE might provide new capital for BRICS' New Development Bank. However, economists also noted that Argentina and Egypt are the International Monetary Fund's two biggest debtors and have required bailouts. Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous country with 120 million people, has been at odds with the U.S. and European Union over their criticism of the recent conflict in the country's Tigray region.

Argentinian President Alberto Fernández said that joining BRICS was "a new opportunity" that "strengthens us."

BRICS has a stated aim to amplify the voice of the Global South. All five current members and dozens of other developing countries represented at the summit repeatedly called this week for a fairer world order and the reform of international institutions like the United Nations, the IMF and the World Bank.

Many in the developing world view those institutions as Western-led and unfair to them and a stream of leaders made speeches Thursday calling for change.

While that sentiment and challenging the current international order is useful for China and Russia's geopolitical aims, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said in a speech to the BRICS summit that the calls for reform were valid.

He quoted figures that said, on average, African countries pay four times more for borrowing from international financial institutions than the United States and eight times more than the wealthiest European countries.

"Redesigning today's outdated, dysfunctional and unfair global financial ar-

chitecture is necessary, but it won't happen overnight," Guterres said. "Yet we can and must take practical action now."

More than 20 countries had formally applied to join BRICS ahead of the Johannesburg summit and more than 20 others had expressed interest, indicating how the bloc might resonate with many as an alternative.

"Cooperation is key to our collective survival," Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said.

South African officials pushed back against characterizations that BRICS was taking an anti-West turn under the influence of China and Russia. Putin and Xi laced their speeches with criticism of the U.S. and its allies earlier in the summit, although Xi did also call for a "lowering of the temperature" in reference to the geopolitical climate.

Putin used a 17-minute pre-recorded address on the opening day of the meetings to lash out at the West over the financial sanctions imposed on Russia as punishment for its invasion of Ukraine.

The expansion of BRICS also appears to expand China and Russia's sphere of influence, especially in the Persian Gulf. While Saudi Arabia had been touted as a likely new member, Iran's inclusion wasn't expected. In the end, three Gulf nations were in line to possibly join.

Until recently, the inclusion of Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE together in the same economic or political organization would have been unthinkable, as tensions escalated following the collapse of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal.

But the UAE became the first to reengage diplomatically with Iran, and Saudi Arabia and Iran announced they had reached a separate détente in March, notably with the help of Chinese mediation. □



# Ukraine marks Independence Day and vows to keep fighting Russia

By **SUSIE BLANN**  
**Associated Press**

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)** — Ukraine on Thursday marked its second Independence Day since Russia's full-scale invasion, with officials vowing to keep up their fight to drive out the Kremlin's forces and local people remembering their fallen loved ones.

The national holiday coincided with the war's 18-month milestone, giving a somber mood to the commemorations.

"We remember everyone who gave their lives for freedom and independence, for the free future of Ukraine," Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post.

He said that an independent Ukraine is "what we are fighting for."

In the northeastern Kharkiv region, families visited a cemetery where fallen Ukrainian soldiers are buried.

Kateryna Krotchenko, the mother of Serhii Krotchenko who was killed near Bakhmut, cleaned his grave.

"He was an ordinary boy who loved life and



**A woman cries at her son's grave who died fighting in the war, as Ukrainians mark Independence Day in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023.**

dreamed of something," she told The Associated Press. "Therefore, he did not accept the fact that war had come to our land and decided to (sign up) voluntarily," she said. "We agreed with his decision. We didn't think it would be like this."

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell

said Ukraine was fighting for "the values we all stand for:" sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

That battle has earned the support of foreign allies, especially NATO alliance member countries that have provided Kyiv with sophisticated new weaponry. The new weapons have al-

lowed Ukraine to launch a grinding counteroffensive. Ukraine's defense ministry marked the day with a series of social media videos that mixed gratitude with wry humor to thank those allies individually for their support.

The United States' video was set to Frank Sinatra's "Our Love is Here to Stay"

**Associated Press**

and ended with a cheeky "thanks for the F-16s" and the words "too soon?" The U.S. has agreed its allies can send Ukraine the fighter jets, but the lengthy process has been a source of frustration to Kyiv.

Britain was thanked to the tune of The Clash's punk classic "London Calling," while Canada received gratitude for sniper rifles, howitzers, armored vehicles and long underwear. France was sent a message of love to the strains of Serge Gainsbourg's "Je t'aime ... moi non plus."

The more than 20 clips were tagged UkraineSaysThankYou perhaps a riposte to British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace's suggestion last month that Kyiv should express more gratitude and not treat its allies like Amazon's delivery service.

Britain's deputy U.N. ambassador, James Kariuki, recalled that 92% of Ukrainians voted in a 1991 national referendum to declare independence from the former Soviet Union, and its existence was recognized by the United Nations including the USSR's successor, Russia. □

# Official leading search for Mexico's disappeared resigns

By **MEGAN JANETSKY**  
**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The head of Mexico's commission leading the search for tens of thousands who

have disappeared over past decades of violence has stepped down as critics accuse the government of trying to undermine the true numbers of the missing

in the run-up to presidential elections.

Escalating cartel violence has increasingly eclipsed large swaths of Mexico, leaving thousands of Mexicans reported missing this year alone.

Karla Quintana, head of the National Search Commission, did not elaborate on the motives for her resignation, saying on Wednesday only that she is leaving her post "in light of current circumstances."

"The challenges surrounding the disappearance of people remain," Quintana posted on X, the social platform formerly known as Twitter.

"The State must continue to push for a comprehensive policy geared toward prevention, searching and

fighting impunity."

Populist President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's government has recently come under criticism for announcing it would carry out a census of the country's disappeared. Critics say this is a tactic to manipulate numbers and "present a fictitious decrease" in those missing ahead of elections next year.

More than 110,000 remain missing across the country, according to Quintana's commission figures likely an undercount due to lack of reporting, distrust in authorities and endemic impunity. Many families of those disappeared have taken it upon themselves to seek justice, often with fatal consequences.

López Obrador appeared

to approve the move by Quintana, whom he appointed in 2019.

Speaking at his Thursday morning news conference, he said when asked about the resignation that it "closed a circle, and we are free."

He added that his government continues to make progress in the search for the disappeared.

Last year, the special prosecutor leading an investigation into the notorious 2014 abduction and disappearances of 43 students in southern Mexico resigned, citing disagreements with the Attorney General's Office. International watchdogs said at the time that his unit lacked support to collect evidence and carry out judicial proceedings. □



**A photo composite of people holding an image of their missing relative in Iguala, Mexico and surrounding towns, April and August of 2015.**

**Associated Press**



## A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no



hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum

in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters

wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.





# Paseo Herencia is always fun and exciting to visit



**NOORD—** Paseo Herencia offers a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options in an outdoor center located in the heart of Palm Beach – walking distance from the high-rise hotels.

## Shopping

The Paseo Herencia stores offer a great collection in beach wear, clothing, perfume, shoes, jewelry, souvenirs and much more. Pamper yourself by visiting Maggy's and enjoy their salon services and shop for your favorite beauty products. Aruba Aloe has that perfect gift to bring back home, all made with natural ingredients. Other brand favorites are Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike store, Pandora and many more.

## Restaurants

Start with a breakfast

meal at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina Colada (pineapples in coconut rum), Bourbon Apple, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another option is Seabarita offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the

whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open for lunch & dinner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the largest wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba located in the center of the Plaza. Open till late.

## VIP Cinema

Visit the one-of-a-kind Caribbean Cinemas VIP on the second floor of Paseo Herencia and en-



joy your favorite movies in the most comfortable reclining seats with high quality screens with the latest projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound and not to forget their delicious buttery bag of popcorn.

## Entertainment

Catch live shows from Monday to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy

Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros.

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To learn more about our specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website [www.paseoherencia.com](http://www.paseoherencia.com).

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## Birds of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundation's Facebook page.



**The Great Egret**  
Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

**Canadian in the house**  
The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This

wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.



**Cabochon**  
In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight.

A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male)  
Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect.



## Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Divi Phoenix



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors

Mr. Salvator & Mrs. Diane Scali from New Jersey, United States. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Mrs. Scali could not join Mr. Scali for pictures afterwards!

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Divi Phoenix bestowed the Emerald Ambassador certificate to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba,

provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's warm and friendly people who always treat them like family.
- "Aruba is my home"
- Aruba's year-round sunny weather.
- "Being able to relax here"
- "Aruba's variety of restaurants – they are all great!"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



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Website: [www.arubaqualityapartments.com](http://www.arubaqualityapartments.com)



## A scientific journey across the island - Part III

**On the 3rd of January 1885, I received on Aruba: I have received a warning; never again travel without a hammock.**

Meanwhile the rays of the sun speedily banished these somber thoughts. As soon as it was possible we set out for Jamanota, and were astonished to see a puddle of fresh water of about three or four feet across in the slate-bed which comes to the surface there. My guide scooped some tadpoles from it. It was known to us that the frog, the so-called dori, occurred on Aruba, but everyone told us that we should not encounter it, because in the dry season it creeps into the soil, being found there occasionally at a depth of as many as six meters. This seeming contradiction was resolved the next day by our finding a grown-up frog, which according to all the natives was decidedly different from the dori, so that the island possesses two kinds of frogs, whereas they do not occur on Curacao and Bonaire at all"

The dori, the species of frog the inhabitant of Aruba is familiar with appears in great masses at the beginning of the rainy season and it is therefore quite understandable that the population greatly honor him, being as he is in a manner of speaking, their redeemer from the prolonged periods of drought in consequence of which the pinch of hunger and misery is so often felt. Already on the implements of the



ancient Indian population sculptured frogs figure prominently, and to this day people are wont to sing a monotonous melody about the dori once recited to me with great tenderness by an old woman: Dori, dori mako, si mi mori ...ken ta dera?

The Mako frog... "if I die...who shall bury me?"

Actually it is the "Sapo" or Cane Toad that the lady in question is referring to in this song, who happily sings all night in celebration of the coming harvest abundance.

"Through the dense undergrowth of spiny Hubada and cacti, pricking our legs and feet and scratching our faces, and sometimes wrenching our hats off our heads, we struggled on in a wide curve sometimes crossing narrow brookbeds filled with rubble, in order to return to our point of departure on the north coast."

"First we arrived at Miralamar where there is a quartz passage rich in gold and where in former times a lucrative mine was worked by an English company. February 1st, 1885, Sunday, our people will not budge. The donkeys, too, are tired, and so we shall have to stay in the vicinity of Fontein till next morning: "poco, poco," said our guide.

"In the morning we visited the stalactite cave at no more than a few hundred yards distance from



Fontein." (Prof. Martin proceeds to give an explanation of the origin of these caves informing us that the Indians chose them as their dwellings at a later period, but that now only bats and rats inhabit them. Furthermore he describes the Indian drawings).



"We continued our journey along the north coast of the island, intending to ride along the beach of Fontein to Daimari, which can now be reached from Oranjestad by an easy path enabling us to arrive there already by noon. It consists of a single house on the bay of that name and is, like all other houses of the residence, of a peculiar construction and subdivision, if one is justified in using this word at all. Two small rooms\_ just large enough for a few hammocks, a crude table and primitive chairs on which, in fact, we hardly dared sit for fear of their collapsing under us that was the interior of this house." "By the side of the house, which is spotlessly white-washed, there is a lean-to, a cooking-place open on several sides in which there is generally a seat. Daimari boasts an object of great luxury. Before the door stands a simple but usable

sun-dial, and it even possesses a type of wind-gauge, made of two calabashes. The professor found a man here whose father was a Dutchman, and who had earned twenty-four thousand guilders as a gold-seeker, but had as soon lost them again."

...and so are the stories of Aruba in the second half of the 19th century.

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at [etnianaativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianaativa03@gmail.com) to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.





# Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub-existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the intro-

duction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

## Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public.



The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broad-

cast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

## The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that

are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas





## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Weasel's kin  
6 Elephant of story  
11 "Spectre" star  
12 Make blank  
13 Hoarse  
14 Track great Owens  
15 Justice Fortas  
16 Irons  
18 Snap  
19 Highway rescue  
20 Snacked  
21 Paisley person  
23 Contract makeup  
25 Farrow of films  
27 Pool unit  
28 Stylish  
30 Dollop  
33 Neptune's domain  
34 Caffeine source  
36 Radio's Glass  
37 State capital since 1847  
39 Way off  
40 Peruvian peaks  
41 Tea party

### DOWN

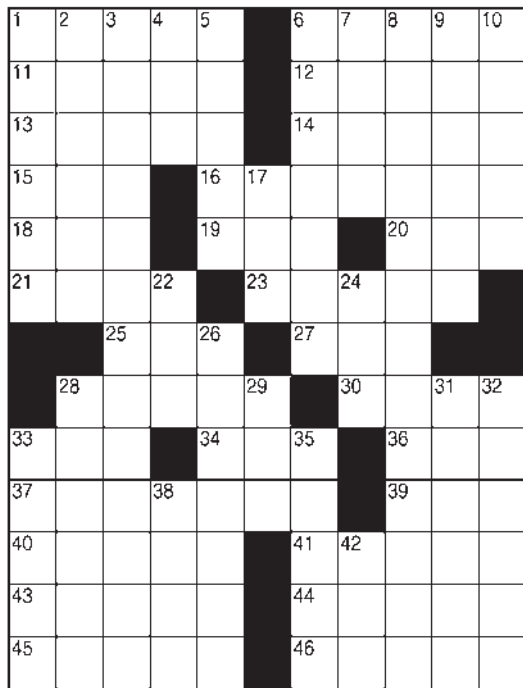
- 43 Fragrance  
44 Spa treatments  
45 Grazing groups  
46 Snowy bird  
1 Throws away  
2 Language of Qatar  
3 Military installation  
4 Pert talk  
5 Sphinx setting  
6 Adorn with sparkles  
7 Warring god  
8 Guitar attachment  
9 Useful skills  
10 Baseball's Pee Wee  
17 Go bad  
22 Aunt, in Acapulco  
24 Cloth scrap  
26 Studio workers  
28 Spirit session  
29 Wallet bill  
31 Source of wisdom  
32 Least covered  
33 URL separator  
35 Visibly stunned  
38 Transmit  
42 Table part



### Yesterday's answer

### DOWN

- 1 Throws away  
2 Language of Qatar  
3 Military installation  
4 Pert talk  
5 Sphinx setting  
6 Adorn with sparkles  
7 Warring god  
8 Guitar attachment  
9 Useful skills  
10 Baseball's Pee Wee  
17 Go bad  
22 Aunt, in Acapulco  
24 Cloth scrap  
26 Studio workers  
28 Spirit session  
29 Wallet bill  
31 Source of wisdom  
32 Least covered  
33 URL separator  
35 Visibly stunned  
38 Transmit  
42 Table part



8-25

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-25

### CRYPTOQUOTE

D J H B K J H Y H Q Y H B G V Y H Q K  
K R V H Y Z R B K J H I H H A  
C G F B K Q R B Z , H P H B Q C G B S H L  
N Q B E H N G C H S R B V .

— N J R B H Z H A Y G P H Y E

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A BLACK CAT CROSSING YOUR PATH SIGNIFIES THAT THE ANIMAL IS GOING SOMEWHERE. — GROUCHO MARY

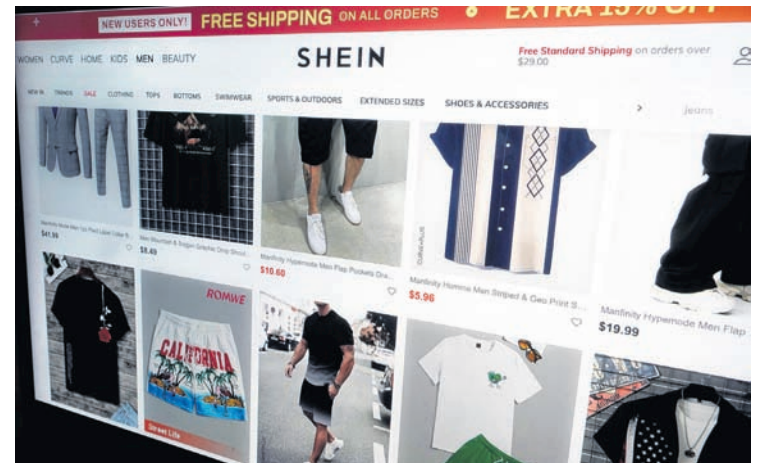
## Shein and Forever 21 team up in hopes of expanding reach of both fast-fashion retailers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Fast fashion retailers Shein and Forever 21 are going into business together.

Under a partnership agreement announced Thursday, the Chinese-founded Shein will acquire about one-third interest in Sparc Group, Forever 21's operator. Sparc will also become a minority shareholder in Shein.

The deal is expected to expand Forever 21's distribution on Shein's global e-commerce platform, which has attracted 150 million online users.

In turn, the partnership "also offers the opportunity to test" Shein product sales and returns in physical Forever 21 stores across the U.S., the companies said in a joint release. Forever 21 has more than 540 loca-



A page from the Shein website is shown in this photo, in New York, Friday, June 23, 2023.

Associated Press

tions worldwide and online. The announcement did not disclose financial details of the deal. The Wall Street Journal first reported the deal between Shein and Sparc Thursday. Sparc is a joint venture that includes brand development company Authentic Brands

Group and mall operator Simon Property Group. Beyond the U.S.-based Forever 21 which was bought out of bankruptcy just three years ago Sparc also makes and distributes apparel for brands like Aéropostale, Eddie Bauer and Reebok.

## Summer spending at bars & restaurants surges as Americans shrug off inflation, recession fears



People walk through an area where restaurants operate outdoor spaces for dining that spread onto sidewalks and streets as part of continued COVID-19 economic impact mitigation efforts, Oct. 3, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

By DAMIAN J. TROISE  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Americans didn't let persistent inflation and lingering worries about a recession cut into summer spending on eating and drinking out. Retail sales at restaurants and bars surged from May through July compared with a year ago, despite prices remaining relatively elevated for restaurants and bars. Sales in the sector jumped 11.8% in July and 9.5% in June from a year ago, according to the Commerce Department. Inflation has been generally falling and broadly relieving pressure on consumers, but prices for food and alcohol outside of the home has remained relatively stable. Consumers also seemingly ignored recession concerns that hung over the economy for most of the year.

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# Loss of Antarctic ice hurting survival of emperor penguin chicks, study says

By CHRISTINA LARSON

AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The loss of ice in one region of Antarctica last year likely resulted in none of the emperor penguin chicks surviving in four colonies, researchers reported Thursday.

Emperor penguins hatch their eggs and raise their chicks on the ice that forms around the continent each Antarctic winter and melts in the summer months.

Researchers used satellite imagery to look at breeding colonies in a region near Antarctica's Bellingshausen Sea. The images showed no ice was left there in December during the Southern Hemisphere's summer, as had occurred in 2021.

Researchers said it is likely that no chicks survived in four of the five breeding colonies they examined. Penguin chicks don't develop their adult waterproof feathers until close to the time they usually fledge, in late December or January, scientists say.

"If the sea ice breaks up under them, the young chicks will drown or freeze to death," said Peter Fretwell, a researcher at the British Antarctic Survey and co-author of the study published Thursday in the journal *Communications Earth & Environment*.

Overall, the ice around Antarctica reached near record low levels last year. The researchers say that climate change will make such losses more frequent in the future.

Fretwell's team has also completed a preliminary analysis of known nesting sites visible in satellite photos because of colored guano, or poop stains, left on white ice across Antarctica, the only continent where the emperor penguin lives. There are about 300,000 breeding pairs left of the world's largest penguins.

Of 62 known penguin col-

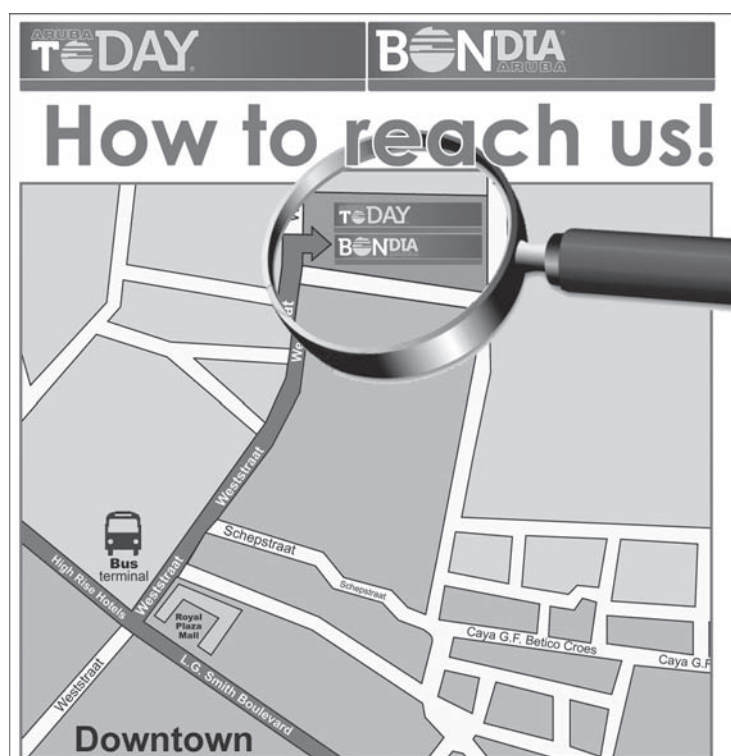


Emperor penguin chicks stand together in Antarctica on Dec. 21, 2005.

Associated Press

onies, around 30% were harmed by low sea-ice levels last year and 13 likely failed entirely, Fretwell said. "That this could happen doesn't shock me, but I'm shocked that it has happened already. I thought it would be further down the line," said Daniel Zitterbart, a researcher who studies Antarctica for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, but was not in-

volved in the new paper. If penguins aren't successful breeding in one location, they may look for another site the next year, he said. While it's possible for the population to recover from one or two bad breeding years, he's worried about the future. "If you look further out down the line, how many suitable places will be left?" he asked. □



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Red Cross	582 2219

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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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# Fran Drescher says actors strike she's leading is an 'inflection point' that goes beyond Hollywood

By **KRYSTA FAURIA** and **AN-DREW DALTON**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Fran Drescher believes that the walkouts that have shut down Hollywood are about something much bigger than the actors union she leads, or the writers striking alongside them, or the entertainment industry.

Drescher told The Associated Press the moment is about the entire world of work, and a larger stand against corporate leaders who value shareholders over the people who create their product.

"At some point you have to say no more," Drescher, the former "Nanny" star who is now president of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, said in an interview at the union's headquarters Wednesday. "I think that it's taken on a bigger scope, it's greater than the sum of its parts. I think it's a conversation now about the culture of big business, and how it treats everybody up and down the ladder in the name of profit."

Drescher, 65, has been president of the actors guild since September of 2021, when she defeated



**SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher poses for a portrait, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, at the SAG-AFTRA offices in Los Angeles.**

**Associated Press**

"Stranger Things" actor Matthew Modine in a union election.

But for many members and observers, the day she truly became president was July 13, when Drescher gave a rousing, fiery and for some inspiring speech at the news conference announcing that talks had broken off and a strike was about to begin.

She lashed out at the leaders of the studios and streaming services, say-

ing "Shame on them. They stand on the wrong side of history."

Drescher told the AP that she had no intention of getting on a soap box that day. She was supposed to read a written statement, then take questions.

"I looked at it quickly and I said, 'You know what, I can't say this, I really feel like I have to speak from the heart,'" she said. "That just kind of came out of my mouth, and I'm glad that I

was able to express myself as succinctly and sincerely and authentically as I did. And I think that it's fascinating when you speak from the heart, people are so responsive. Because I guess they see a lot of people that don't."

Drescher is the first president of the guild to preside over a film and TV actors strike since 1980. At the time, only one woman had led the union. Now, seven have, including three of the

past five.

The Screen Actors Guild (it merged with AFTRA in 2012) has had plenty of famous presidents, from James Cagney to Ronald Reagan to Charlton Heston.

But few in recent decades have had as recognizable a name, face, voice or laugh as Drescher. She made her film debut with a tiny part in the 1977 John Travolta disco classic "Saturday Night Fever," and after many similar small but memorable roles, nearly always as brash New Yorkers, she starred for six seasons on the sitcom "The Nanny" from 1993 to 1999.

On the show, which she co-created, Drescher played Fran Fine, a character who becomes a children's caretaker for an upper-crust Manhattan family. The similarities between her character and herself went beyond her name: born and raised in Queens, New York, frank to a fault, and punctuating sentences with a nasal giggle.

She said the business has changed vastly since then. "I'm very grateful that I got my big break during that time and not this time," Drescher said. "When I started on 'The Nanny' at CBS, that was still a family owned

business. You knew who the owners were and you could talk to them. And everything has changed." In a very different caretaking role today, she has a very different view.

"Now, when you have a business model where the CEOs are more connected to the shareholders and not to the people that actually make the product that they're selling," she said.

"I think that you have a breakdown that is unsustainable." The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, the group representing the employers, recently restarted talks with the Writers Guild of America, whose members have been on strike for nearly four months. □

## In his new book 'The Fall,' author Michael Wolff foresees the demise of Fox News

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The next book from "Fire and Fury" author Michael Wolff is both a recounting of the recent past and a prediction for the near future. Wolff's "The Fall: The End of Fox News and the Murdoch Dynasty" will come out Sept. 26, publisher Henry Holt announced Tuesday. A spokesperson told The Associated Press that Wolff, whose previous books include "Rupert Murdoch, The Man Who Owns the News," interviewed

"people throughout the Murdoch organization, including many with direct knowledge of Murdoch and his family." Wolff will offer behind-the-scenes accounts of everything from Tucker Carlson's ousting, to Rupert Murdoch's clashes with former President Donald Trump to tensions within the Murdoch family that mirror HBO's "Succession." Fox's decline is inevitable, Wolff contends. "I have been telling the

story of the great power of Rupert Murdoch and Fox News for many years," he said in a statement. "This power is now reaching a natural end and 'The Fall' brings the story to its closing act." Wolff is best known for "Fire and Fury," his tell-all about the Trump administration that sold millions of copies despite allegations from some mentioned in the book that he had misquoted or misrepresented them. □



This cover image released by Henry Holt shows "The Fall: The End of Fox News and the Murdoch Dynasty" by Michael Wolff, releasing Sept. 26.

**Associated Press**



# Yankees general manager Brian Cashman calls this season 'a disaster'

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In what amounted to a concession speech with the New York Yankees on the verge of their longest losing streak in a century, general manager Brian Cashman proclaimed the season "a disaster" and "an embarrassment" that will lead to job assessments of himself and manager Aaron Boone. New York (61-65), which began the season with baseball's second-highest payroll at \$275 million, ended its first nine-game losing streak in 41 years by beating Washington 9-1 Wednesday night on the strength of Aaron Judge's first three-homer game. Still, the Yankees are on track for their first losing season since 1992.

"It's been a disaster this season. Yes, definitely a shock," Cashman said during a 22-minute pregame news conference. "We're embarrassed by it." New York hit .176 during the slide with 21 runs but avoided what would have been its first 10-game skid since May 21 to June 6, 1913, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.



**New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman gestures while speaking during a news conference before a baseball game against the Washington Nationals Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in New York.**

"We're really obviously disappointed, frustrated, angered," Cashman said. "And that's representative from every aspect of this franchise from top to bottom. And that includes our players, too. They care. They're fighting. I know it doesn't look like that, but I would say if you try to put yourself in their position, I don't think anybody wants

to go out in front of 40,000 people and lay an egg, whether it's individually or collectively as a team, because then what comes with that is pretty horrific." Cashman, 56, has been general manager since 1998 and agreed last December to a four-year contract. The 50-year-old Boone took over as manager before the 2018 season

and has one more guaranteed season in a three-year deal that includes a team option for 2025.

"I think we're all going to be evaluated, including myself," Cashman said. New York is 9 1/2 games back for the AL's third and final wild card, also trailing Toronto, Boston and the Los Angeles Angels.

"You have to be a realist

with how far we're back now from the wild card, who we're chasing," injured first baseman Anthony Rizzo said. "We're certainly not out of it, but we have a very, very long shot from being in it."

Cashman and Boone met Friday with owner Hal Steinbrenner, who wants a wide-ranging evaluation of the organization.

After peaking at 36-25 on June 4, then Yankees went 24-40 over a stretch in which they were last in the majors with a .220 batting average and 237 runs 10 fewer than lowly Oakland.

"It's all-consuming. That said, you always try to have a level of perspective that I certainly do in my life," Boone said. "School's getting ready to start, a couple going off to college and trying to be as present as you can be there, too. So you do try and separate, and I think I'm decent at it." Hal Steinbrenner does not erupt at losing managers in the manner of his tempestuous father George, who changed managers 21 times from 1973-2008.

"He's certainly frustrated, obviously, as we all are," Boone said. □

Associated Press

# Betts has 5 hits and 2 RBIs as Dodgers beat Guardians 6-1

By **BRIAN DULIK**  
Associated Press

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Mookie Betts matched his career high with five hits and drove in two runs, sending the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 6-1 victory over the Cleveland Guardians on Thursday in the completion of a suspended game.

Betts singled four times in the first six innings and had a two-run double in the eighth for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who are 18-3 in August.

The seven-time All-Star is batting .561 during an 11-game hitting streak and has a .456 average this month.

The teams were to play their regularly scheduled

game later Thursday, with the Guardians' Gavin Williams to face Ryan Pepiot. Los Angeles led 3-1 after

two innings Wednesday when heavy rain forced play to be suspended after a 1 hour, 37 minute stop-

page.

Another round of storms arrived after the bottom of the eighth Thursday, delaying the game for 72 minutes.

Gus Varland (1-0) worked 1 1/3 innings for his first big league win as seven pitchers combined for a four-hitter. Guardians starter Xzavion Curry (3-2) gave up three runs in three innings. Kiké Hernández had a two-run double, Freddy Freeman had three hits and an RBI and Will Smith added a sacrifice fly for the Dodgers. Cleveland's lone run came in the first when José Ramírez homered off Clayton Kershaw, who struck out four over two innings in his third start since returning

from a sore left shoulder.

The Guardians completed their first suspended home game since June 24-25, 1994, when they lost to the Yankees at Cleveland Stadium.

## HOMECOMING

Guardians C Eric Haase, who was claimed off waivers from Detroit on Monday, appeared in his first game with the franchise since 2019. He went 1 for 4 after batting .201 with four homers and 26 RBIs for the Tigers.

Haase was a seventh-round pick by Cleveland in the 2011 amateur draft but only played in 19 major league games before being designated for assignment eight years later. □



**Los Angeles Dodgers' Mookie Betts celebrates hitting a two-run double during the eighth inning in the continuation of a suspended baseball game against the Cleveland Guardians, Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023, in Cleveland.**

Associated Press



# India lands a spacecraft near the moon's south pole, a first for the world as it joins elite club

**NEW DELHI (AP) —** India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the moon's south pole on Wednesday — a historic voyage to uncharted territory that scientists believe could hold vital reserves of frozen water, and a technological triumph for the world's most populous nation.

After a failed attempt to land on the moon in 2019, India now joins the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone. A lander with a rover inside touched down on the lunar surface at 6:04 p.m. local time, sparking celebrations across India, including in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru, where space scientists watching the landing erupted in cheers and applause.

The successful mission showcases India's rising standing as a technology and space powerhouse and dovetails with the image that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to project: an ascendant country asserting its place among the global elite. "India is now on the moon."



Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath and his officers celebrate the successful landing of spacecraft Chandrayaan-3 on the moon at ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network facility in Bengaluru, India, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023. India has landed a spacecraft near the moon's south pole, an uncharted territory that scientists believe could hold vital reserves of frozen water and precious elements, as the country cements its growing prowess in space and technology.

(AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi)

India has reached the south pole of the moon — no other country has achieved that. We are witnessing history," Modi said as he waved the Indian tricolored flag while watching the landing from South Africa, where he is participating in the BRICS nations summit.

The lunar rover will slide down a flap from the lander within hours or a day and conduct experiments, including an analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface, said S. Somnath, chairman of the state-run Indian Space Re-

search Organization.

The mission, which began more than a month ago at an estimated cost of \$75 million, is expected to last another two weeks. Somanath said that India would next attempt a manned lunar mission.

Nuclear-armed India grew to become the world's fifth-largest economy last year, and the success of the lunar mission will likely help Modi's popularity ahead of a crucial general election next year.

India's success comes just days after Russia's Luna-25, which was aiming for the same lunar region, spun into an uncontrolled orbit and crashed. It would have been the first successful Russian lunar landing after a gap of 47 years. Russia's head of the state-controlled space corporation Roscosmos attributed the failure to the lack of expertise due to the long break in lunar research that followed the last Soviet mission to the moon in 1976.

Modi's efforts to revitalize India's global standing — and to finally shake off the legacy of British colonialization — has resonated with many Indians. The moon landing was seen by many as further proof that their country is a rising, modern superpower.

India will host next month's G-20 Summit, and Modi is expected to use the event to spotlight the country's growing geopolitical clout. Even as it maintains historic ties with Russia, the U.S. and other Western nations continue to woo India, whom they see as a critical bulwark against China's growing influence.

Accolades poured in from around the world to acknowledge India's emergence as a modern space power. NASA Administrator Bill Nel-

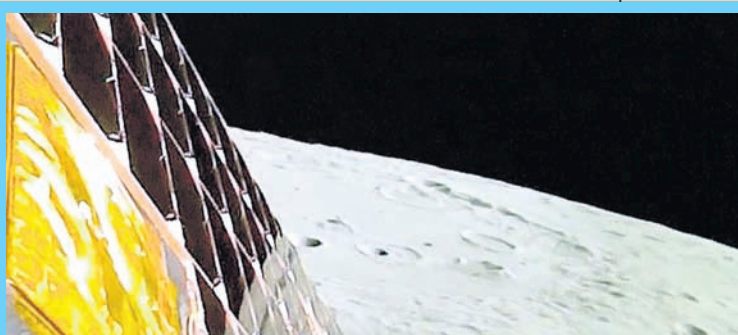
son congratulated India on X, formerly known as Twitter, saying "We're glad to be your partner on this mission!"

"Incredible!" European Space Agency's director general Josef Aschbacher tweeted.

India's Chandrayaan-3 — "moon craft" in Sanskrit — took off from a launchpad in Sriharikota in southern India on July 14.

Many countries and private companies are interested in the South Pole region because permanently shadowed craters may hold frozen water that could help future astronaut missions use it as a potential source of drinking water or to make rocket fuel.

Aruba Today congratulates the entire Indian community in Aruba with this exciting achievement!



This image from video provided by the Indian Space Research Organisation shows the surface of the moon as the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft prepares for landing on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023. India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the moon's south pole, which scientists believe could hold vital reserves of frozen water. (ISRO via AP)



**CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING THE FIRST NATION TO SUCCESSFUL REACH THE SOUTH POLE OF THE MOON**

